

# The Biz

Credit & Collection News from Caine & Weiner

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## Caine & Weiner contributes to success of NACM Credit Congress

**Woodland Hills, CA**—As a dedicated and long standing supporter of the National Association of Credit Management (NACM) and exclusive alliance partner with NACM Connect, Caine & Weiner took an active role at NACM's 116th Credit Congress & Exposition, held this year at the Gaylord Texan Hotel & Convention Center in Grapevine, TX, June 10-13.

Caine & Weiner kicked off the annual event Sunday evening, June 10th, by co-hosting our annual invitation only hospitality suite with NACM Connect.

The casual atmosphere provided the guests with an opportunity to relax and mingle with members of Caine & Weiner and NACM Connect representatives and to renew relationships with their industry associates.

As an event exhibitor Caine & Weiner's booth once again was the center of much activity where stakeholders, associates and credit professionals could explore different revenue generating opportunities through Caine & Weiner's diverse and full spectrum accounts receivable management solutions.

"It was a pleasure to personally visit with our valued clients," said Greg A. Cohen, Caine &



Gaylord Texan Hotel & Convention Center

Weiner's President & CEO. "We're extremely pleased with the tremendous turnout at our hospitality suite. The convention floor traffic specifically engaged visitors to our booth and the new relationship opportunities. This year's event was a resounding success on many levels."

NACM announced that over 1000 credit professionals attended this year's event, setting a five year attendance record.

It is the industry's largest gathering of credit professionals, where attendees can attend workshops, learn about pending legislation affecting the industry, network and more.

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## Consumer confidence holds steady in May

By Matthew Towson  
Discover Financial Services

Consumer confidence in the economy remained flat in May, while lower gas prices gave a slight boost to spending intentions, in particular for summer vacation plans.

The Discover U.S. Spending Monitor, a nearly five-year-old daily poll tracking economic confidence and spending intentions of nearly 8,200 consumers throughout the month, declined 1.2 points to 95.5 in May.

The percentage of respondents who said the U.S. economy was improving held steady at 33 percent in May, even though slightly fewer respondents said their personal finances were improving. Overall, 37 percent said their personal finances were good or excellent, a 2-point decline from the month earlier.

[Click here for full story.](#)

## Buffet says odds of a U.S. recession "very low"

By Christopher S. Rugaber  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. economy isn't likely to slip back into a recession, despite recent economic reports signaling the recovery has lost momentum, Warren Buffett said.

Speaking at the 25th anniversary dinner of the Economic Club of Washington late Tuesday, the billionaire investor said he sees the odds of a renewed recession as "very low."

An alarmingly weak May jobs report last week sent financial markets tumbling and has led economists to lower their forecasts for U.S. economic growth this year.

While downplaying the risk of a recession, Buffett said that all bets could be off if the effects of Europe's financial crisis were to "spill over in a big way."

European leaders need to reconcile the "half-in, half-out," nature of the euro zone, Buffett said. The 17 nations that use the euro share the same



central bank and interest rate policies, but follow wildly different national tax and budget policies.

Buffett, who is the CEO of Omaha, Neb.-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., also reaffirmed his support for the so-called "Buffett Rule." The proposal would require Americans with incomes above \$1 million to pay a 30 percent tax rate.

"I couldn't get a disease named after me, so I settled for a tax," he said.

He also said both political parties deserve blame for the federal

government's failure to reduce the deficit.

When asked how he would reduce the U.S. government's budget deficit, which is on track to top \$1 trillion for the fourth year in a row, Buffett recommended raising taxes and cutting spending.

"The problem is the Democrats don't want to talk about what expenditures they would cut and the Republicans don't want to talk about raising revenues," he said.

"You've got to get specific about it," he added. "Just talking about reform won't work."

That echoed the criticism many Democrats have leveled against GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney. They say his budget-cutting proposals consist mainly of broad targets and don't include enough details about actual cuts.

[Click here for full story.](#)

## Square card reader hits Walgreens, Staples & FedEx

By Stephanie Mlot  
PC Magazine

Mobile credit card company Square is making it easier for buyers and sellers to make everyday transactions.

The company's miniscule card readers are now available for purchase at more than 20,000 retail locations nationwide with the addition of Walgreens, Staples and FedEx Office stores.

"Accepting credit cards should be as easy as buying supplies at your local store," said Jeffrey Kolovson, head of Square's retail distribution, said in a statement.

The Square Card Reader, standing about an inch tall, plugs into the headphone jack of an iPhone, iPad or

Android device and enables any one to take credit card payments through their phone. Square said the reader has been a hit with local merchants at events like flea markets or farmers'



markets, enabling them to accept credit and debt cards from customers.

More than a million people and businesses have signed up to use Square, which processes more than \$5 billion in payments each year, Square said in a statement. The company offers a full point-of-sale system for anyone to accept payments, track inventories and share menus and location information with customers.

The card reader is currently available in more than 7,000 Walgreen's, 1,500 Staples and 1,500 FedEx stores.

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## U.S. foreclosures at a 5-year low

By Dan Levy  
San Francisco Chronicle

### San Francisco, CA—

Foreclosure filings in the United States fell to a five-year low last month as lenders sought to avoid seizing property and a housing recovery showed signs of taking hold.



The number of default, auction and seizure notices sent to homeowners in April totaled 188,780, down 14 percent from a year earlier and 5 percent from the previous month, according to RealtyTrac. It was the lowest tally since July 2007, before the onset of the biggest housing crash in seven decades, the data seller said.

The "gradually rising foreclosure tide" forecast by RealtyTrac after a February settlement by the nation's biggest mortgage servicers over faulty practices has yet to materialize, limiting the number of properties on the market and propping up prices. Banks are finding alternatives to home seizures, selling distressed property for less than the amount owed on the mortgage, known as a short sale, or modifying loans for borrowers struggling to keep up payments while

an improving economy is helping to ease defaults.

"Things are getting better and the number of vulnerable households is going down," Paul Willen, senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, said in a telephone interview. "The pool of borrowers is much more stable than it was two or three years ago."

The U.S. mortgage delinquency rate fell in the first quarter to 7.4 percent, the lowest level in more than three years, the Mortgage Bankers Association said Wednesday. The rate peaked at 10.1 percent in the first quarter of 2010 and was last lower in the third quarter of 2008, at 6.99 percent.

Home prices in the United States rose 0.6 percent in March from the previous month, the first sequential advance since July and the third straight month-over-month gain excluding short sales and foreclosure sales, said mortgage data company CoreLogic. Prices fell 0.6 percent from a year earlier, according to the firm's index of home values.

National home-price data belies improvements in many markets where "tighter inventories are beginning to lift home prices," CoreLogic Chief Executive Officer Anand Nallathambi said in a May 8 statement.

[Click here for full story](#)

## Many eligible borrowers passing up foreclosure reviews

By Julie Schmit  
USA Today

Months after the first invitations were mailed, only a small percentage of eligible borrowers have accepted a chance to have their foreclosure cases checked for errors and maybe win restitution.

By April 30, fewer than 165,000 people had applied to have their foreclosures checked for mistakes — about 4% of the 4.1 million who received letters about the free reviews late last year, according to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The reviews were agreed to by 14 major mortgage servicers and federal banking regulators in a settlement last year over alleged foreclosure abuses.

So few people have responded that another mailing to almost 4 million households will go out in early June, reminding them of the July 31 deadline to request a review, OCC spokesman Bryan Hubbard says. If errors occurred, restitution could run from several hundred dollars to more than \$100,000.

The reviews are separate from the \$25 billion mortgage-servicing settlement that state and federal officials reached this year.

[Click here for full story](#)

## Consumers still struggling with debt, savings

By Tim Grant  
Pittsburg Post-Gazette

Consumers are still struggling to repay daunting amounts of debt that piled up during those times when their incomes did not cover the cost of living. While loan balances do appear to be going down, it may be at the expense of many Americans being able to save for future needs.

In a recent University of Michigan

Institute for Social Research report, analysts found that at least one out of five families in this country owe more on credit cards, medical bills and other forms of unsecured debt than they have available in savings or other liquid assets.

Perhaps even more disturbing, the report revealed the number of families

with no savings in the bank was up to 23.4 percent at the end of 2011, compared to 18.5 percent in 2009, an indication that consumers' personal finances are getting worse even as the economy is on the mend.

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## The Biz

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*Established in 1930 by Sidney Caine and Charles Weiner, the firm has offices strategically located across the country to service their 2,500 clients.*

### Payday lenders and Indians evading laws draw scrutiny

By Carter Dougherty  
Bloomberg News

U.S. regulators and Congress are scrutinizing partnerships between Native Americans and outside investors in online payday lending businesses accused of exploiting tribal sovereignty to evade state consumer-protection laws.

The push has divided Native American groups, with critics of payday lending opposing tribal involvement in the businesses, which charge interest rates as high as 521 percent for short-term loans. Other Indian groups, formed to represent the nascent industry in Washington, are pushing back against the regulators.

Charles Moncooyea, vice chairman of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, called the interest of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau “a declaration of war” and vowed to fight federal intervention into the new businesses.

“The fact is our tribe -- and tribes nationwide -- benefit from the positive economic impact from these and other businesses activities, with revenues directed towards such critical needs as medical care, education and many other basic necessities,” Moncooyea said in a written statement. The partnerships have drawn the attention of

federal regulators largely because of sovereign immunity, the legal doctrine that restricts state interference in tribal affairs.

“It’s a model that could go into any kind of area where the states regulate,” said Colorado Attorney General John Suthers.

At least 10 Indian tribes have lending businesses, according to the Native American Lending Alliance and the Native American Fair Commerce Coalition.

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